

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
August 8, 2013

Prior to the beginning of the meeting Mayor Paterson noted the passing of former Town of Mansfield employee, John Jackman. Mr. Jackman served as the Emergency Management Director, Fire Marshal and as Deputy Fire Chief for many years. John was an independent spirit who loved life and those around him. He will be missed by the Mayor and by the Town. Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in his honor.

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

Excused: Paulhus

II. WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

Town Manager Matt Hart welcomed those present and outlined the evening's agenda.

a. Record of Decision, Environmental Impact Evaluation – Potential Sources of Water Supply

UConn Associate Vice President of Infrastructure Planning & Strategic Project Management Thomas Callahan and Senior Environmental Analyst Jason Coite presented information on the history, purpose, issues and the process used in Environmental Impact Evaluation and the subsequent Record of Decision recently endorsed by the UConn Board of Trustees. The approved recommendation names CT Water Company (CWC) as the preferred alternative and Windham Water Works (WWW) as a feasible alternative.

Council members discussed CWC's role in providing water to off campus sites, CWC's use of UConn's existing infrastructure, UConn's obligation to provide water to certain Town residents under existing consent decrees and CWC's ability to provide sufficient water resources.

b. Report on Governance Issues

Teno West, Esq. and Bruce Tobey Esq. of Pannone, Lopes, Devereaux and West LLC compared key governance elements of the two identified sources of water and what those options would mean to the Town of Mansfield. Attorney West noted that a number of the discussed considerations will be the subject of negotiations among the three entities.

Council members discussed the Town's role in determining how off campus water would be allocated, the role of the advisory committee, the use of zoning regulations in determining the distribution of water to individual parcels; and the issues to be negotiated in any agreement.

c. Sewer Project Update

Town Manager Matt Hart updated the Council on the Four Corners Water and Sewer Project. Preliminary designs for the sewer pump station and the distribution lines have been completed and the Town is moving toward completion of the final designs.

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d. Next Steps

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded, effective August 8, 2012, to refer the Record of Decision to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission, Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee, and the Sustainability Advisory Committee for input on key issues for the Town to consider in proceeding with the Connecticut Water Company alternative, with the recommendations of the Commission and Advisory Boards to be available to the Council within thirty days.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Unidentified, asked for information regarding the role and capacity of the UConn sewer treatment plant and if the Town has considered gray water treatment. Jason Coite noted the capacity of UConn's sewer treatment plant exceeds both the current and projected demands. Mr. Hart commented that the Town and the UConn are interested in conservation efforts and will look at all alternatives.

Meg Reich, Bassetts Bridge Road, representing the Willimantic River Alliance as both its President and its Representative to the Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee spoke to the need to address the placement of the water and sewer pipes to minimize road disruptions during construction; the ability of the Planning and Zoning Commission to create an overlay to minimize the impact and to require CWC to gain approval prior to pipe placement in environmental sensitive areas: and the options for crossing the Willimantic River.

Art Smith, Mulberry Road, thanked the League of Woman Voters for the panels held to discuss water issues and reiterated the need to consider the secondary cost of privatization of the water supply. Mr. Smith questioned the extent to which privatization will affect the ability of residents to avail themselves of the Freedom of Information laws.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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